

MEDIA ADVISORY

SEATTLE DISTRICT OFFICE

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Release Date: July 22, 2004 Contact: Roger Hopkins, 206-553-7082 Release No: SDOMA 04-01 E-mail: roger.hopkins@sba.gov

Seattle Small Business Owners to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

Hearing to be interpreted in Mandarin Chinese

WHO: SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the

Regional Regulatory Fairness Board for Region X from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of federal regulations by government

regulators.

WHAT: To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal

agencies and small businesses, the U.S. Congress has directed the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness (RegFair) hearings. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency.

will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency.

Note: Testimony gathered at RegFair Hearings about federal regulatory activity and comments, concerns and complaints filed with the

national ombudsman are reported to Congress each year.

Interpretation and testimony in Mandarin Chinese will be

available.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. –noon, Tuesday, July 27

WHERE: Seattle Small Administration District Office

1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 1700

Seattle, WA 98402

MEDIA: The hearing is open to the press and the public. **Interviews with**

Ombudsman Barrera can be arranged. Please call Roger

Hopkins at 206-553-7082.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing. Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.